<u>AMENDMENTS</u>

In the Claims

1.-55. (Cancelled)

56. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

receiving a plurality of time slots, wherein

said time slots comprise a first frame and a second frame,

said second frame is received subsequently to said first frame, and

said first frame and said second frame are time-division multiplexed frames;

relocating existing network management information of said second frame from a set of byte locations of said second frame to another set of byte locations of said second frame;

relocating network management information from a first set of byte locations of said first frame to said set of byte locations of said second frame;

cross-connecting said time slots;

selecting at least one of said time slots;

receiving a plurality of incoming time slots;

sequentially writing said incoming time slots into a plurality of input buffers; randomly reading a plurality of outgoing time slots from said input buffers; and outputting said outgoing time slots.

57. – 59. (Cancelled)

- 60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, further comprising: extracting said network management information; and routing said network management information.
- 61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60, wherein said cross-connecting comprises said selecting said at least one of said time slots.

- 2 - Serial No.: 09/727,905

62. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a plurality of time slots, wherein

said time slots comprise a first frame and a second frame, said second frame is received subsequently to said first frame, and

said first frame and said second frame are time-division multiplexed frames;

means for relocating existing network management information of said second frame from a set of byte locations of said second frame to another set of byte locations of said second frame;

means for relocating network management information from a first set of byte locations of said first frame to said set of byte locations of said second frame;

means for cross-connecting said time slots;

means for selecting at least one of said time slots;

means for receiving a plurality of incoming time slots;

means for sequentially writing said incoming time slots into a plurality of input buffers; means for randomly reading a plurality of outgoing time slots from said input buffers; and

means for outputting said outgoing time slots.

63.–65. (Cancelled)

- 66. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 62, further comprising: means for extracting said network management information; and means for routing said network management information.
- 67. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 66, wherein said means for cross-connecting comprises said means for selecting.
- 68. (Currently Amended) A program on a computer readable medium product comprising:
 a first set of instructions, executable on a computer system, configured to receive a
 plurality of time slots, wherein

- 3 - Serial No.: 09/727,905

- said time slots comprise a first frame and a second frame, said second frame is received subsequently to said first frame, and said first frame and said second frame are time-division multiplexed frames;
- a second set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to relocate network management information from a first set of byte locations of said first frame to said set of byte locations of said second frame;
- a third set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to crossconnect said time slots;
- a fourth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to select at least one of said time slots;
- a fifth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to receive a plurality of incoming time slots;
- a sixth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to sequentially write said incoming time slots into a plurality of input buffers;
- a seventh set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to randomly read a plurality of outgoing time slots from said input buffers; and
- an eighth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to output said outgoing time slots; and
- computer readable storage media, wherein said computer program product is encoded in said computer readable storage media.

69-71. (Cancelled)

72. (Currently Amended) [[A]] <u>The</u> program on a computer readable medium product of claim 68, further comprising:

- a ninth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to extract said network management information; and
- a tenth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to select at least one of said time slots.

- 4 - Serial No.: 09/727,905